

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET
Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Seventh Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Seventh Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.6% (1,909) reside in the Seventh Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (363) of Seventh Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.0% of admissions from the Seventh Middlesex Representative District were male and 25.0% were female.
- Over 63.4% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 71.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 10.7% were black non-Latino, 12.9% were Latino, 0.3% were Asians, and 4.0% were other racial categories.
- 61.0% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.7% were married, and 15.3% reported not to be married now.
- 26.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 52.3% completed high school, and 21.3% had more than high school education.
- 30.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 38.1% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.4% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

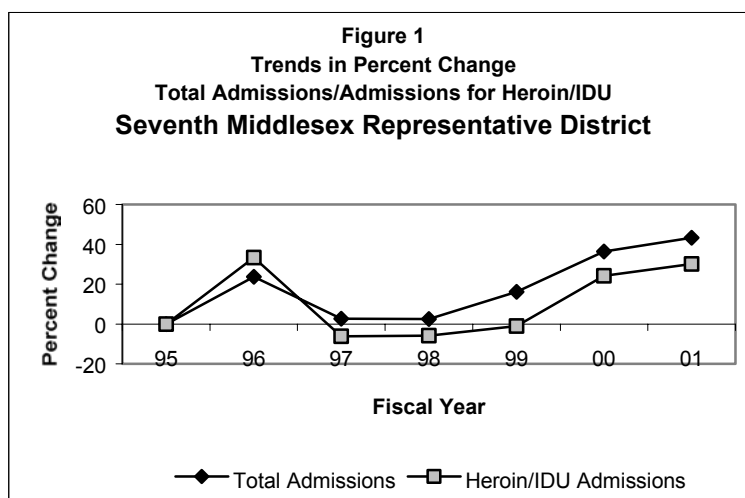
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Seventh Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1							
Annual Admissions by Substance Used							
FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Seventh Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,332	993	266	519	254	516	364
FY '96	1,647	1,232	420	636	357	659	515
FY '97	1,367	1,032	348	511	282	468	358
FY '98	1,366	982	311	415	234	458	370
FY '99	1,546	1,171	428	463	316	502	369
FY '00	1,817	1,308	448	456	291	613	480
FY '01	1,909	1,398	476	467	306	667	478

- Since dropping in FY 1998, residents of Seventh Middlesex Representative District reported a steady increase across all the drug categories. Alcohol use increased by 42%, marijuana by 53%, cocaine by 12%, crack by 30%, and heroin use by 45%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Seventh Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 43% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 30%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Seventh Middlesex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	52.8 %	30.2%	5.9%	4.2%	3.0%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, marijuana, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and cocaine was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000